

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 (Currently Amended). A recreational water board for towing a person behind a water craft on or below the surface of the water, the board comprising:

a substantially planar structure, having a pair of wings respectively provided either side of a central axis of symmetry, said structure having a leading edge and a trailing edge, the leading edge of each wing being swept-back to give the board a hydro-dynamically contoured profile;

at least ~~three~~six handgrips arranged symmetrically on the structure to enable the board to be firmly gripped while being towed, the at least six handgrips include a first pair of rear handgrips being provided adjacent the trailing edge of each wing on either side respectively of said central axis, ~~[[and]]~~ a third rear handgrip being provided adjacent the trailing edge of the structure substantially aligned with said central axis, each of said rear handgrips being provided in substantially the same plane as said planar structure, a second pair of front handgrips being provided adjacent a leading edge of each wing and on either side respectively of said central axis, and a third front handgrip being provided on the leading edge of the structure and aligned with said third rear handgrip along the central axis; and

a pair of apertures provided adjacent said leading edge and arranged symmetrically on either side respectively of the central axis for attaching a tow bridle to the board, said pair of apertures defining a pivot axis, perpendicular to said central axis, about which said board may be tilted to enable the user to dive or resurface in the water, in use, depending on the direction of tilt.

2 (Original). A recreational water board according to claim 1 wherein said pair of apertures is one of a series provided adjacent to the leading edges respectively of each wing.

3 (Original). A recreational water board according to claim 2 wherein each pair of apertures in said series is spaced progressively closer to each other, either side respectively of said central axis, wherein said pivot axis can be adjusted progressively closer to or further away from the front of the board.

4 (Previously Presented). A recreational water board according claim 1 wherein said tow bridle is coupled to a tow rope by a swivel device.

5 (Previously Presented). A recreational water board according to claim 4 wherein the tow bridle comprises a single bridle rope coupled at each end to said pair of apertures, said bridle rope being slidably attached to said swivel device whereby the bridle rope slides through the swivel device.

6 (Previously Presented). A recreational water board according to claim 1 wherein the trailing edge of the structure has a central cut-out portion adapted to accommodate a person's head when the board is held overhead in use.

7 (Previously Presented). A recreational water board according to claim 1 wherein the structure is formed of buoyant material with a specific gravity of between 0.5 and 0.75.

8 (Previously Presented). A recreational water board according to claim 7 wherein the buoyant material has a specific gravity of about 0.6.

9 and 10 (Cancelled)

11 (Previously Presented). A recreational water board according claim 1 wherein the board further comprises a fin arrangement on an underside of the structure.

12 (Original).A recreational water board according to claim 11 wherein the fin arrangement comprises a single fin positioned on an underside of the planar structure.

13 (Original).A recreational water board according to claim 11 wherein the fin arrangement comprises a plurality of fins positioned on an underside of the planar structure.

14 (Currently Amended). A recreational water board according to claim 13 wherein the fin arrangement comprises ~~three fins~~, a central fin positioned on the central axis of symmetry of the structure, and two outer fins spaced equidistantly from the central fin and substantially parallel to the central axis of symmetry.

15 (Original). A recreational water board according to claim 14 wherein the central fin is larger than the outer fins, and wherein the outer fins are of substantially equal size.

16 (Currently Amended). A recreational water board according to claim ~~[[12]]~~15 wherein the outer fins are each substantially triangular in shape.

17 (Original). A recreational water board according to claim 16 wherein the outer edges of the fins are curved.

18 (Currently Amended). A recreational water board according claim ~~[[14]]~~17 wherein the central fin is positioned in alignment with the third rear handgrip and the outer fins are positioned in alignment with the first pair of rear handgrips.

19 (Currently Amended). A recreational water board for towing a person behind a water craft on or below the surface of the water, the board comprising:

a substantially planar structure formed of buoyant material, having a pair of wings respectively provided either side of a central axis of symmetry, said structure having a

leading edge and a trailing edge, the leading edge of each wing being swept-back to give the board a hydro-dynamically contoured profile;

at least ~~one handgrip~~ six handgrips arranged symmetrically on the structure to enable the board to be firmly gripped while being towed, the at least six handgrips include a first pair of rear handgrips each adjacent a trailing edge of one of the wings and arranged symmetrically about said central axis, a third rear handgrip adjacent the trailing edge of the structure and aligned with the central axis, wherein each of said rear handgrips are in a plane of said planar structure, a second pair of front handgrips adjacent the leading edge of each wing and arranged symmetrically about the central axis, and a third front handgrip on the leading edge of the structure and aligned with said third rear handgrip along the central axis;

a fin arrangement comprising three fins on an underside of the structure, a central fin positioned on the central axis of symmetry of the structure, and two outer fins spaced equidistantly from the central fin and substantially parallel to the central axis of symmetry; and,

a pair of apertures provided adjacent said leading edge and arranged symmetrically on either side respectively of the central axis for attaching a tow rope or bridle to the board, said pair of apertures defining a pivot axis, perpendicular to said central axis, about which said board may be tilted ~~to enable the user to dive or resurface~~

~~in the water, in use, depending on the direction of tilt~~ when attached to the tow rope or toe
bridle, said front handgrips being forward of the pivot axis and the rear handgrips being
aft of the pivot axis.

20 (Original). A recreational water board according to claim 19 wherein the central fin is larger than the outer fins, and wherein the outer fins are of substantially equal size.

21 (Previously Presented). A recreational water board according to claim 19 wherein the trailing edge of the structure has a central cut-out portion adapted to accommodate a person's head when the board is held overhead in use.

22 (Previously Presented). A recreational water board according to claim 19 wherein the structure is formed of buoyant material with a specific gravity of between 0.5 and 0.75.

23 (Original). A recreational water board according to claim 22 wherein the buoyant material has a specific gravity of about 0.6.

24 to 26 (Cancelled)

27 (Currently Amended). A recreational water board according to claim ~~[[26]]~~ 19 wherein the central fin is positioned in alignment with the third rear handgrip and the outer fins are positioned in alignment with the first pair of rear handgrips.

28 to 30 (Cancelled)

31. (New) A water tow board comprising:

a planar structure having a center section with a leading region and a trailing region, and pair of wings arranged on opposite sides of the center section, wherein the wings are arranged symmetrically about the center section, each wing has a leading region swept back with respect to the leading edge of the center section and each wing has a trailing region;

a pair of bridle connections on the board and arranged symmetrically about the central axis for coupling the board to a tow rope or tow bridle, wherein the bridle connections define a pivot axis perpendicular to the center axis;

at least six handgrips including a front handgrip arranged in each of the leading regions of the wings and center section, and a rear handgrip arranged in each of the trailing regions for each of the wings and the center section, wherein the front handgrips are forward of the pivot axis and the rear handgrips are aft of the pivot axis.

32 (New) The water tow board as in claim 31 wherein the pair of bridle connections are separated by a distance greater than a distance separating the front handgrips in the leading regions and a distance separating the rear handgrips in the trailing regions.